

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 AID-05 SS-15 NSC-05 /078 W

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R 171450Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9190

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAREUR

USDOCOSOUTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 4462

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ON PX'S IN GREECE

REF: ATHENS 3683

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMALLY PROVIDED WITH A COPY OF
MINISTER OF FINANCE DEVLETOGLOU'S WRITTEN RESPONSE TO ND
DEPUTY SAVVOURAS' QUESTION CONCERNING AMERICAN MILITARY
PX'S IN GREECE (REFTEL). REPLY WAS FORWARDED TO SAVVOURAS
AND SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE CONCERNED WITH INTERPELLATIONS
ON JUNE 16. LETTER WILL EVENTUALLY BE
PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL RECORD OF DAILY PARLAIAMENTARY
PRECEEDINGS (I.E. "PRAKTIKA") FOR THAT DATE (BUT THERE
NORMALLY IS A TIME LAG OS SEVERAL DAYS). THREE MORNING
NEWSPAPERS, I.E. TO VIMA, AKROPOLIS AND ELEFTHEROS
KOSMOS, REPORT THE ITEM, THE INFORMATION FOR THEIR
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STORIES APPARENTLY HAVING COME EITHER DIRECTLY OR

INDIRECTLY FROM SAVVOURAS HIMSELF.

2. DEVLETOGLOU'S RESPONSE CITES OCTOBER 12, 1953 AGREEMENT (E.E. MILITARY FACILITIES AGREEMENT) BETWEEN GREECE AND U.S. AS AUTHORITY WHICH PERMITS IMPORTATION INTO GREECE FOR THE BENEFIT OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT OF MACHINERY, MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION, DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ITS INSTALLATIONS AND ALSO FOR THE PROVISIONING OF THE PERSONNEL OF U.S. MILITARY FORCES, THEIR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES, AND THEIR SPOUSES AND DEPENDENTS, WITH SUCH IMPORTATION TO BE EXEMPTED FROM EVERY TAX, DUTY OR CUSTOMS CONTROLS OR RESTRICTIONS. MINISTER ALSO NOTED THAT PERMISSION ALSO GRANTED BY SAME AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STORES AND CANTEENS FOR THE USE OF AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL (INCLUDING THOSE PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED) WITHOUT ANY SUBSTANTIVE CUSTOMS CONTROL. THE MINISTER NOTED THAT WHILE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES HAVE MADE - AND ARE MAKING - EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO PREVENT THE ILLEGAL FLOW OF SUCH IMPORTED GOODS INTO THE INTERNAL GREEK MARKET, SUCH A TASK IS MADE DIFFICULT IN PRACTICE BY THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE AGREEMENT. SIMILARLY, THE MINISTER CONTINUED, THE ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES JOINTLY CARRIED OUT WITH AMERICAN SERVICES AIMED AT PREVENTING THE ABUSE OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES SPELLED OUT IN THE AGREEMENT, ARE UNABLE TO BE APPLIED EFFECTIVELY AND DECISIVELY SINCE THEY LACK SUFFICIENT POWER INDISPENSABLE FOR THEIR IMPOSITION.

3. THE MINISTER CONCLUDED HIS RESPONSE BY POINTING OUT THAT THIS SYSTEM OF IMPORTATION AND DISPOSITION OF GOODS INTO GREECE FOR THE NEEDS OF AMERICANS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES ALREADY CONSTITUTES SUBJECT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BEING CARRIED OUT RELEVANT TO U.S. MILITARY BASES IN GREECE AND WILL BE REVISED AND REGULATED ANEW THROUGH LAW (SIC) SO THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE GREEK PUBLIC WILL BE FULLY PRESERVED AND PROTECTION AFFORDED TO LAWFUL IMPORTERS AND BUSINESS MEN FROM UNLAWFUL COMPETITION.

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KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS04462
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750210-1258
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750640/aaaabkdu.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ATHENS 3683
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <01 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTERIAL RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ON PX'S IN GREECE
TAGS: PFOR, GR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006